Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A tire molding machine ~~comprising~~ comprising:

a pair of bead core supporting devices ~~for supporting~~configured to support respective bead rings arranged on a radially outer side of a carcass band and axially spaced by a predetermined distance from each ~~other,~~other; and

a molding drum including a bead lock ~~section for~~section configured to radially ~~expanding~~ expand those portions of the carcass band~~, which~~ that are situated on a radially inner side of the bead cores so as to urge the carcass band against the bead cores, ~~said tire molding machine being so designed that~~ at least one of the bead cores ~~has~~ having a center axis with a controllable inclination angle, wherein:

at least one of ~~said~~ the bead core supporting devices, ~~which~~ that is ~~capable of holding~~ configured to hold~~the bead core to have a center axis with a controllable inclination angle,~~ the at least one of the bead cores, ~~comprises~~comprises:

an annular upright ~~plate,~~plate;

a bead holder ring secured to the annular upright ~~plate,~~plate; and

a bead holder ring posture control ~~means for controlling~~portion configured to control an inclination angle of a center axis of the bead holder ring relative to the annular upright plate, ~~within an angular range including zero degree,~~ wherein ~~said~~ the bead holder ring ~~serves to hold~~ is configured to hold the bead core in parallel with a surface of the ~~ring.~~ring, the bead holder ring posture control portion is configured to control the inclination angle of the center axis of the bead holder ring in two different directions, the bead holder ring posture control portion comprising:

spherical bearings arranged at not less than two locations on the bead holder ring, linear motion shafts each extending in a direction perpendicular to the annular upright plate and having a tip end that is pivotally connected to the bead holder ring in omni-directional manner by the spherical bearing; and

shaft moving portion configured to move the linear motion shafts to desired positions in an axial direction of the annular upright plate.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The tire molding machine according to Claim 1,~~ A tire molding machine comprising:

a pair of bead core supporting devices configured to support respective bead rings arranged on a radially outer side of a carcass band and axially spaced by a predetermined distance from each other; and

a molding drum including a bead lock section configured to radially expand those portions of the carcass band that are situated on a radially inner side of the bead cores so as to urge the carcass band against the bead cores, at least one of the bead cores having a center axis with a controllable inclination angle, wherein:

at least one of the bead core supporting devices, that is configured to hold the at least one of the bead cores, comprises:

an annular upright plate;

a bead holder ring secured to the annular upright plate; and

a bead holder ring posture control portion configured to control an inclination angle of a center axis of the bead holder ring relative to the annular upright plate, wherein the bead holder ring is configured to hold the bead core in parallel with a surface of

the ring ~~wherein ,said~~ the bead holder ring posture control ~~means~~ portion ~~comprises~~ comprising:

spherical bearings arranged at not less than two locations on the bead holder ring, linear motion shafts each extending in a direction perpendicular to the annular upright plate and having a tip end ~~which~~ that is pivotally connected to the bead holder ring in omni-directional manner by the spherical ~~bearing, and~~bearing; and

shaft moving ~~means~~ portion ~~for moving~~configured to move the linear motion shafts to desired positions in an axial direction of the annular upright plate.

5. (Currently Amended) The tire molding machine according to Claim 4, wherein ~~said~~ the linear motion shaft comprises a ball screw rod engaged with a female screw in the annular upright plate, ~~said~~ the shaft moving ~~means~~ portion comprises a servomotor with a reduction ~~means~~portion, ~~for rotating~~ configured to rotate the ball screw rod directly or indirectly through a gear mechanism, and ~~said~~ the annular upright plate is axially slidably provided with a ball spline or a support shaft, ~~said~~ the ball spline or support shaft having a tip end ~~which~~ that is pivotally connected to the bead holder ring in omni-directional manner, by a spherical bearing provided on the bead holder ring.

6. (Currently Amended) The tire molding machine according to Claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the bead core supporting device is movable in ~~an axial~~the axial direction of the molding drum.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The tire molding machine according to Claim 3,~~ A tire molding machine comprising:

a pair of bead core supporting devices configured to support respective bead rings arranged on a radially outer side of a carcass band and axially spaced by a predetermined distance from each other; and

a molding drum including a bead lock section configured to radially expand those portions of the carcass band that are situated on a radially inner side of the bead cores so as to urge the carcass band against the bead cores, at least one of the bead cores having a center axis with a controllable inclination angle, wherein:

at least one of the bead core supporting devices, that is configured to hold the at least one of the bead cores, comprises:

an annular upright plate;

a bead holder ring secured to the annular upright plate; and

a bead holder ring posture control portion configured to control an inclination angle of a center axis of the bead holder ring relative to the annular upright plate, wherein the bead holder ring is configured to hold the bead core in parallel with a surface of the ring, both of the bead core supporting devices comprise respective bead holder ring posture control portion, the bead holder ring posture control portion each configured to control the inclination angle of the center axis of the bead holder ring in a single direction, the angular control directions being different from each other among the respective bead core holder rings~~wherein ,said~~ the bead holder ring posture control ~~means~~ portion ~~comprises~~ comprising:

spherical bearings arranged at not less than two locations on the bead holder ring, linear motion shafts each extending in a direction perpendicular to the annular upright plate and having a tip end ~~which~~ that is pivotally connected to the bead holder ring in omni-directional manner by the spherical bearing~~, and~~; and

shaft moving ~~means~~ portion ~~for moving~~configured to move the linear motion shafts to desired positions in an axial direction of the annular upright plate.

9. (Currently Amended) The tire molding machine according to ~~Claim 7~~Claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the linear motion shaft comprises a ball screw rod engaged with a female screw

in the annular upright plate, ~~said~~ that shaft moving ~~means~~ portion comprises a servomotor with a reduction ~~means, for rotating~~portion configured to rotate the ball screw rod directly or indirectly through a gear mechanism, and ~~said~~ the annular upright plate is axially slidably provided with a ball spline or a support shaft, ~~said~~ the ball spline or support shaft having a tip end ~~which~~ that is pivotally connected to the bead holder ring in omni-directional manner, by a spherical bearing provided on the bead holder ring.

10. (Currently Amended) The tire molding machine according to Claim 8, wherein ~~said~~ the linear motion shaft comprises a ball screw rod engaged with a female screw in the annular upright plate, ~~said~~ the shaft moving ~~means~~ portion comprises a servomotor with a reduction ~~means, for~~portion configured to ~~rotating~~ rotate the ball screw rod directly or indirectly through a gear mechanism, and ~~said~~ the annular upright plate is axially slidably provided with a ball spline or a support shaft, ~~said~~ the ball spline or support shaft having a tip end ~~which~~ that is pivotally connected to the bead holder ring in omni-directional manner, by a spherical bearing provided on the bead holder ring.

11. (Currently Amended) The tire molding machine according to ~~Claim 2~~Claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the bead core supporting device is movable in ~~an axial~~the axial direction of the molding drum.

12. (Currently Amended) The tire molding machine according to ~~Claim 3~~Claim 8, wherein ~~said~~ the bead core supporting device ~~is movable~~configured to move in ~~an axial~~the axial direction of the molding drum.

13. (Currently Amended) The tire molding machine according to Claim 4, wherein ~~said~~ the bead core supporting device ~~is movable~~configured to move in ~~an axial~~the axial direction of the molding drum.

14. (Currently Amended) The tire molding machine according to Claim 5, wherein ~~said~~ the bead core supporting device ~~is movable~~configured to move in ~~an axial~~the axial direction of the molding drum.

15. (Currently Amended) The tire molding machine according to ~~Claim 7~~Claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the bead core supporting device is movable in ~~an axial~~the axial direction of the molding drum.

16. (Currently Amended) The tire molding machine according to Claim 8, wherein ~~said~~ the bead core supporting device is movable in ~~an axial~~the axial direction of the molding drum.

17. (Currently Amended) The tire molding machine according to Claim 9, wherein ~~said~~ the bead core supporting device is movable in ~~an axial~~the axial direction of the molding drum.

18. (Currently Amended) The tire molding machine according to Claim 10, wherein ~~said~~ the bead core supporting device is movable in ~~an axial~~the axial direction of the molding drum.